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ABSTRACT

As most librarians have probably realized by the paucity of articles in the library literature concerning the "Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, Second Edition, 1988 Revision" (Chicago: American Library Association, 1988), no revolutionary changes have been introduced in the 1988 revision in direct contrast to the situation with the original publication of AACR 2 in 1978. In general, most of the changes in the descriptive cataloging rules are to simplify the rules and make them more consistent. While the majority of the literature that has appeared concerning AACR 2R has been aimed at the technical services or cataloging librarian, this paper highlights changes which affect access to bibliographic records along with other changes of which librarians in all types of library and information centers should be aware. The areas discussed in this paper include the categories of changes, specific cataloging changes (e.g., those concerning the use of qualifying places in the British Isles, the headings for contemporary authors who publish under more than one name, the new general materials designators), and the future of the main entry concept. (5 end notes) (Author/MAB)

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HIGHLIGHTS OF AACR 2 Revised:

A Brief Examination of the Differences Between AACR 2 and AACR 2R

April 1990

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As most librarians have probably realized by the paucity of articles in the library literature concerning the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules*, Second Edition, 1988 Revision (Chicago: American Library Association, 1988), no revolutionary changes have been introduced in the 1988 revision in direct contrast to the situation with the original publication of AACR 2 in 1978. In general, most of the changes in the descriptive cataloging rules are to simplify the rules and make them more consistent. While the majority of the literature that has appeared concerning AACR 2R has been aimed at the technical services or cataloging librarian, this article highlights some of changes of which all librarians in all types of library and information centers should be aware.

Highlights of AACR 2 Revised: A Brief Examination of the Differences Between AACR 2 and AACR 2R

Introduction

As most librarians have probably realized by the paucity of articles in the library literature concerning the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules*, Second Edition, 1988 Revision (Chicago: American Library Association, 1988), no revolutionary changes have been introduced in the 1988 revision in direct contrast to the situation with the original publication of AACR 2 in 1978. In a recent article in *American Libraries*, Michael Gorman, one of the co-editors of AACR 2R, referred to this revision as AACR 2 1/2 (1). Except for Gorman's article, most of the literature concerning the 1988 revision, has been directed to technical services librarians (2); however, all librarians need to be aware of the kinds of changes which have taken place in descriptive cataloging. This brief overview of AACR 2R is aimed, therefore, at all librarians in all types of library and information centers.

Categories of Changes

One obvious addition to the revised rules is the inclusion of all the material that was in the three revision packets to AACR 2 that were issued after its publication in 1978. Some of the examples in the text have been changed and/or modernized, and any identified inconsistencies or anomalies were eliminated. The development and rapid proliferation of new technology necessitated that AACR 2R contain new rules to take into account new types of library materials such as computer files and digital sound recordings. Generally, many of the rule changes for descriptive cataloging were made to simplify the rules and make them more consistent.

A few of the options available in AACR 2 concerning access points have been removed. These options had caused inconsistencies for users of bibliographic utilities and problems for the utilities themselves in reconciling entries coming from UKMARC and Canadian MARC records. An example of one such change concerns the qualification of place names. AACR 2 did not require a place name to be qualified unless there was a known conflict. An option was provided, which the Library of Congress followed, to qualify a place name whether or not a conflict existed. AACR 2R (Rule 23.4B1) now provides that all place names other than a country or a state should be qualified by the name of a larger place.

Specific Changes

From the perspective of both the cataloger and the catalog user, one of the most welcome changes in descriptive cataloging has to do with qualification of geographical place names in the British Isles (Rule 23.4D). With the implementation of AACR 2 in January, 1981, catalogers began qualifying places in the British Isles with the name of the county. This change in practice was difficult for most American librarians in that our knowledge of British counties was rather limited, and to many of our library patrons such differentiations were almost meaningless. However, one of the revisions in AACR 2R was a return to qualifying places in the British Isles with the constituent country. For both patrons and librarians, qualification by constituent countries results in entries that we can more readily identify: Edinburgh (Scotland); Birmingham (England); Cardiff (Wales); and Belfast (Northern Ireland). Earlier AACR 2 qualification by counties, resulted in entries much less comprehensible to Americans: Edinburgh (Lothian); Birmingham (West Midlands); Cardiff (South Glamorgan); and Belfast (Antrim).

Another major change in AACR 2R concerns the headings for contemporary authors who publish under more than one name (3). AACR 2 called for the heading to use the predominant name. For

contemporary authors, this determination was difficult, if not impossible, to make. The possibility exists that what could be the predominant form for an author in 1975 might not be the predominant form in 1990, assuming the author continued to publish under another name or another form of his or her name. AACR 2R (Rule 22.2B3) instructs the cataloger in the case of a contemporary author who uses more than one pseudonym or real name and one or more pseudonyms to use as the basis for the heading the name appearing in the particular work. While greatly simplifying the cataloging process for the cataloger and retrieval for the catalog user, this rule will lead to a greater scattering of the works of contemporary authors under varying bibliographic identities, leading us further and further away from the earlier descriptive cataloging concept of uniform entry. In the long run, this rule change will probably lead to greater problems for serious researchers and research libraries, but will make both cataloging and retrieval easier, no doubt, for other types of libraries and the average library patron.

Three new general material designators (GMDs) were added to the list used by agencies in Australia, Canada, and the United States (Rule 1.1C1). The additions included "art reproduction," which is to be used for any two-dimensional or three-dimensional mechanically produced work of art. Art prints themselves are sill designated as an "art original." "Braille was also added to the list of GMDs as well as "toy." For libraries and media

centers who acquire toys, the previous choices had been "game" or "model," neither of which were deemed appropriate for some of the materials acquired.

In the physical description of a kit, AACR 2R now allows as an option for the inclusion in the bibliographic record of information about a kit's container (Rule 1.10C2). For libraries that may house kits differently depending upon the size of container, the addition of this information concerning the container could help simplify the location of materials requested by a patron.

When AACR 2 was first published in 1978, relatively inexpensive microcomputers and their software were unknown. However, not too many years after its publication, microcomputers and microcomputer software were being acquired by all types of libraries. The "old" chapter 9 in AACR 2 dealt only with machine-readable data files and was clearly insufficient to deal with the software being acquired by libraries. An extensively revised version of chapter 9 was published in 1986 and yet further revisions were incorporated into AACR 2R. As an aid to both librarians and patrons, system requirements notes have become mandatory. In the physical description area of the bibliographic record, file characteristics are included such as the nature of the software, the number of records, etc. Provision has even been added for "remote" software.

A few minor changes have been made to headings for corporate bodies. In AACR 2, initial articles were deleted from the names

of corporate bodies unless the article was required for grammatical reasons. In AACR 2R (Rules 24.5A1), all initial articles are deleted, including those articles that might be deemed necessary for grammatical reasons (4). This rule change should help in user retrieval of bibliographic records dealing with corporate bodies and help reference and bibliographic instruction librarians by eliminating an exception to the general rule that must have been as difficult to explain to users as it was difficult to apply consistantly by catalogers.

Future of Main Entry

The concept of main entry remains alive and well with us in AACR 2R. Because a main entry is virtually the same as any added entry in most online catalogs, Gorman and some other cataloging theorists see little justification for the emphasis in the current cataloging code placed on choosing the main entry. In pre-automation and especially pre-xerox days, a number of excellent reasons existed for the concept of main entry. The best reason being that when the cataloging staff had to type catalog cards, usually only the main entry contained the full bibliographical record for the item. Technical services have progressed a long way from those days with online catalogs and serial control systems, and the amount of time spent making determinations con-

cerning main entries might be better spent in other professional pursuits.

In a November 1989 article in *Library Resources and Technical Services*, Gorman blamed the MARC format for "keeping the idea of main entry alive" In that article, he declares the notion of main entry is now outdated and list a number of reasons why he believes this is true. He foresees changes in the MARC format: "...no human system can live indefinitely with the kind of internal contradictions represented by the forms of MARC and the cataloging codes on the one hand and the realities of online bibliographical access on the other." He predicts that changes will be made to the MARC format in the near future that will allow the issue/idea of main entry to be dropped from the cataloging code. (5)

Conclusions

While all the changes reflected in AACR 2R have not been discussed, the major changes which affect access to bibliographic records have been discussed along with other changes which may be of general interest to all librarians. As indicated, several of the changes result in a return to earlier descriptive cataloging practices such as the qualification of place names in the British Isles. Other changes are meant to remove inconsistencies in

cataloging from one agency to another, and to update the descriptive cataloging rules where new technology has necessitated such changes.

All professional librarians, not just catalogers, by their input through professional association participation must continue working to keep our cataloging and information retrieval practices relevant and up-to-date for our users. It is only by constantly challenging and re-evaluating its procedures that the library profession will continue to progress and, thus, be capable of organizing bibliographic data in a manner that will meet the information needs of future patrons, whatever their needs may be.

END NOTES

1. Michael Gorman, "Call it AACR2 1/2 or Apres La Guerre, or Daughter of a Dynamic Decade." *American Libraries* 19 (May 1988): 387-388.

2. For a more in-depth treatment of the revisions and changes in AACR 2R, see Jean Weihs and Lynne Howarth, *A Brief Guide to AACR2, 1988 Revision and Implications for Automated Systems*. Ottawa, Ont.: Canadian Library Association, 1988.

3. From the examples provided in the text, the phrase "contemporary author" includes, but is not limited to, living authors, thereby leaving some ambiguity to stimulate further cataloging discussions on who is to be considered a "contemporary author.".

4. This rule change effects only those articles used as articles and ignored for filing purposes. Corporate names such as Los Angeles, for example, are obviously not effected by this rule change.

5. Michael, Gorman, "Yesterday's Heresy -- Today's Orthodoxy:

an Essay on the Changing Face of Descriptive Cataloging." *College & Research Libraries* 50 (Nov. 1989): 626-634.